

points which, though readily observable, cannot be said to be the less important. The reviewer may speak only of those matters of which he claims to have some personal knowledge and would cite the instance on pages 493-4 where *Lycopodium volubile* is said to have but four rows of leaves in common with *L. complanatum*. This is an error, but one which is made also in the "Pflanzenfamilien" of Engler and Prantl. So also the statement that in some species the leaves are of two kinds, that is, dimorphous. As a matter of fact, the leaves on the foliage shoots of *L. alpinum* are of three kinds, those on the dorsal and ventral surfaces being markedly different from each other and also from the lateral ones. Those among us who chiefly disregard matters lying without the range of microscopic vision would complain rather loudly were similar misapprehension of the structure and variety of, say, archeogonia, to obtain, but it is difficult for some minds at least to see that error attaching to the observation of, humanly speaking, large things is any less to be shunned.

There are welcome additions to the older book in the form of a discussion of alternations of generations, and a brief but suggestive chapter on fossil archeogonites. In the former we are glad to notice that there is an indication of a tendency to seek for physiological explanations of the remarkable facts of alternation of generations — this in the last few paragraphs.

The book, we may say in closing, is the product of much study and betokens a dashing vigor of mind which attains the large ends in view, and it should continue to be an important stimulus to a better knowledge of the forms which botanists in this country know rather too little about.

F. E. LLOYD.

Farlow's Bibliographical Index of North American Fungi*

The magnitude of the work begun by Professor Farlow under the above title is apparent from the fact that this first part, consisting of over three hundred pages, covers only the genera anterior to *Badhamia* in the alphabetical sequence. In the inter-

*Farlow, W. G. Bibliographical Index of North American Fungi. Vol. 1. Part 1. Carnegie Institution of Washington, Publication No. 8. 1905. 8vo, i-xxxv + 1-312.

esting preface is a history of the circumstances under which the conception of such a work originated and developed. "North America" is construed in its widest sense, including the West Indies, Bermuda, and the continent north of the Isthmus of Panama. The species are arranged alphabetically, under their respective genera and the citations of literature are disposed chronologically under each. The literature lists impress one as being very full, though any attempt to make them complete is modestly disclaimed; they have been compiled with the idea of lightening the labor of the systematic mycologist and papers of a purely technical or agricultural bearing and many of a physiological character have been omitted. The Bacteria and Saccharomycetes are not included.

In a work dealing so largely with plant names, the author's views on the "scabrous subject" of nomenclature are of especial interest and one is not disappointed in finding them tersely and forcibly expressed in the preface, partly as follows: "At the present day the *Sylloge* of Saccardo and the *Pflanzenfamilien* of Engler and Prantl may be said to be the two works on the classification of fungi in most general use, and we have preferred to follow them as far as possible. * * * There are two categories of botanists: those who believe that nomenclature is an end rather than a means, to whom the changing of names to adapt them to a uniform, automatic system, seems to be the important aim in science; and those who regard nomenclature as a necessary evil which can be mitigated by making as few changes as possible. Of these two categories, it is hardly necessary to say that we should prefer to be classed with the latter. * * * It is best not to make too violent attempts to interpret the older mycologists but to be content with letting the dead bury their dead. The business of reviving corpses has been carried altogether too far in mycology." After perusing this conservative platform, one is slightly shocked to find the author adopting *Albugo* of S. F. Gray, revived by Otto Kuntze and by Schröter, for the genus for which the name *Cystopus* had become "classic" in both taxonomic and morphological literature — a name which the next International Botanical Congress, if the committee having the

matter in hand happens to be suitably constituted, may place upon its list of *nomina conservanda*. This support of a Kuntzean innovation by one who prefers to be classed among those who change names as little as possible inclines us to the belief that the line of division between his "two categories of botanists" is perhaps as elusive as the limits of some of the currently accepted genera of the larger fungi. It is a pleasure to note that the oldest specific name is maintained, — a practice which, happily, already has the sanction of most mycologists. The author's remark that *Agaricus campestris* L. is the type of the genus *Agaricus* is of interest in connection with Dr. Murrill's recent action in taking *Agaricus quercinus* L. as the type and thus transferring the name *Agaricus* to the genus ordinarily known as *Daedalva*.

Critical notes and comments are numerous — mostly written by the author but partly by Mr. A. B. Seymour, whose coöperation in the work receives a special acknowledgement in the preface. The "Bibliographical Index of North American Fungi," as planned and thus, in part, executed, will prove a valuable time-saver and aid to American mycologists and will receive from them a most grateful welcome.

MARSHALL A. HOWE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

OCTOBER 10, 1905.

This meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History, with President Rusby in the chair and twenty-two persons present.

A letter was read from Mr. Edward W. Berry, tendering his resignation as recording secretary of the Club owing to his removal to Baltimore. Dr. Chamberlain moved that the resignation be accepted and that a letter be sent to Mr. Berry, expressing to him the Club's high appreciation of his services and the regret of the Club at his removal. This motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

The announced program for the evening consisted of informal